

THE SPARK GAP

MIDSTATE AMATEUR
RADIO CLUB
N9DLN/R
146.835

PRES.-ERIC SLUDER KB9BGS EC-SETH ROSSMAN KB9BGV V. P.-JACK PARKER NT9J
SEC-TREAS-BOB DOLES WB9AYB ACTIVITIES-MIKE KETCHAM KA9ZCL

OCTOBER 1988 / 1989

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

New officers were elected by MSARC at the September meeting. Rather than repeat all the names here, your editor will just ask you to check the masthead for their names and positions. We hope they will be able to continue the growth and enjoyment the club has had during Joan's terms.

Speaking of new officers...

DE KB9BGS

As you know, September was election month, which means new officers. First of all I would like to thank the previous officers for their time and effort; they did a great job. I would especially like to thank Joan N9DON for the fine job she has done as president for the past three years. I only hope I can do as good a job as she has, as I look forward to serving the club as president for the next year.

Of course, new officers mean new ideas, and as you have probably noticed, some changes have already taken place. When checking into the net on Sunday evenings, you will notice a different check-in procedure. This was initiated by our new EC, Seth Rossman. You'll also notice that we are reading ARRL bulletins during the net, and we are hoping to add WESTLING soon, too! These additions to the net have been made to help keep our club members informed about Amateur Radio activities both locally and nationally. We hope to attract more amateurs both in- and outside our community with these new additions. If you have any suggestions or questions, feel free to contact me; I'm always open for comments.

Also on the net, Mike Head WB9ZQE did an excellent job of informing us about the Budget Reconciliation Bill HR 1750. Briefly, if this bill passes, it will allow the government to charge Amateur Radio operators for their licenses. This includes new

amateurs applying for a license, as well as those just applying for a renewal or change of address. The fee has not been set yet, but could be as much as \$30-\$35 per application. Keep in mind that none of this money would go to the FCC, but would go into the general fund to help offset the budget deficit. As Mike stated, and I personally agree, all amateurs should write their Senators immediately. Here are their addresses and phone numbers to help you:

Senator Richard G. Lugar
306 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-4184

Senator Daniel R. Coats
524 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-5623

These senators also have offices in Indianapolis; they're listed in the Blue Pages in the phone book.

Well, that's all for now, but don't forget the meeting Saturday October 21 at the Johnson County Law Enforcement Building, 8:00 AM. There will be VE testing there at 9:00 AM, right after the meeting. For more information, contact Mac NV9K.

DE N9DON

I am pleased with the elections, and am confident that our new staff will do a good job for the club. I have not yet planned a schedule for RACES, but would like to have more classes with Dave Crockett WA9ZCE. Will keep you posted.

73, N9DON

MEETING SATURDAY OCT. 21!

TOM CARROLL N9AZD TO BE WORLD TRAVELER

According to the latest BISON from the Indiana Radio Club Council, a group of Indianapolis-area hams, twelve in all, will be traveling to Bouvet Island in January of 1990, and one of them will be no less than our illustrious Tom N9AZD. Operating as 3YOB, the group will operate seven complete stations on 160 through 10 meters and OSCAR, so we should have plenty of chance to work them. Operation is scheduled to begin February 2 of next year (that's not that far off, either).

My encyclopedia doesn't say a lot about Bouvet, but it does mention ice cliffs (scary!) and says that "Landing is extremely difficult." Further, Bouvet is uninhabited, except for, presumably, penguins and other Antarctic creatures, and, of course, twelve crazy people who will go to unimaginable expense and trouble just to go to a place that most people don't even know exists!

We're being a little hard on the DXers, perhaps, but I'll bet almost any one of us would trade places with Tom in a minute! Good luck, guys, and we'll be listening for you.

Most of us are afraid even to buy a new rig for fear of what our spouses will say, but here's a bunch who may literally be risking life and limb, not to mention their savings accounts, to visit an icy rock near Antarctica and live among the penguins for weeks, just to talk to a few thousand people they'll probably never meet.

Maybe we're being a bit hard on you guys, but I'll bet there's scarcely a ham among us who wouldn't trade places with Tom in a second! He won't even have a suntan to show for it; January is midsummer down there, but I'll wager "summer" has an entirely different meaning on a place like Bouvet Island. Anyway, Tom, good luck to you and all the crew. We'll be listening for you.

SYMPATHY

We would like to express our sympathy to both Jack Parker NT9J and Seth Rossman KB9BGV on the death of relatives or family members.

220 NOTES

Your editor had occasion recently to use the 224.84 N9FUT 220 machine. Imagine my surprise when I got a call from Brad N9INN, sounding a little raspy. I expressed surprise that Brad had 220 equipment, but got a real surprise when he announced that he was on 440! Seems several machines had been linked together for an experiment, including KM9S' 440.325 and the 147.105 in Lebanon. I had started out talking with my daughter Andrea KB9AWK, and I suspect she got a spot of mike fright when she heard how far her voice was carrying! Anyway, if you get the chance to work some 220, try it; you never know who will show up.

10-METER ACTIVITY

Have any of you been on 10 meters recently? It's red hot, almost literally! Last week, Eric KA9QYK called to ask if I'd like to work DU9H on Yap Island (where the natives use stone wheels, too big to carry, for money). Of course I wanted to, and did, right after a VK4 worked him, and I could hear the VK loud and clear-- this at 3:30 PM! At the same time, you could still work almost every country in Europe, from OH to OK, still on 10! I missed the great 1979 sunspot year, but it looks like 1989 is as good, or perhaps better. Get on 10 if you have the chance. There's some fairly rare DX, even in the Novice subband. Try it! Make hamming fun again!

NOVICE CLASS REPORT

As of last Thursday, the 12th, we had graduated at least 10 new Novices, including at least four women of various ages. This makes me very happy, as I'm trying hard to get more women and youngsters into the hobby. Please try to stop by the class sometime, but better hurry; at the rate we're going to run out of students pretty quickly!

FRAANKLIN IN 46131

1660 MAUXFERRY RD

EUGENE MCCARTY NV&K

P O BOX 22 WHITELAND IN 46184

